

UNCLASSIFIED

10/14/77

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VV ESB012BRA866
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DE RUEHC #7918 2882343
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P 152331Z OCT 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES PRIORITY 8451

STATE 247918

O. 11632: GDS

TAGS: PDIP, PGOV, PARM, SHUM, AR, US

SUBJECT: CONVERSATION WITH AMBASSADOR AJA ESPIL

TO	ACI	INF	743	AI
AMB			PAO	
DCM			L. GATT	
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ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)

U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/TPS

Margaret P. Grafeld, Director

(X) Release () Excise () Deny
Exemption(s):

Declassify: () In Part (X) In Full

() Classify as () Extend as () Downgrade to

Date Reason

1. AMBASSADOR AJA ESPIL (ACCOMPANIED BY MINISTER PRAT GUY, MINISTER BOCHERT AND COUNSELOR BEAUGE) GAVE A LUNCH-OCTOBER 13 FOR DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY MCNEIL DURING WHICH THEY DWELT IN GOOD MEASURE ON THE SECRETARY'S TRIP.

2. THE AMBASSADOR STRESSED THE GREAT PLEASURE OF THE ARGENTINE AUTHORITIES AT THE SECRETARY'S VISIT. FOR THE ARGENTINES, THE SUBSTANCE OF THE VISIT WOULD BE MOST IMPORTANT. THE ARGENTINES, OF COURSE, UNDERSTOOD THAT IT WAS NOT POSSIBLE FOR THE PRESIDENT TO GO TO ARGENTINA. BUT IT WOULD BE CRITICAL TO HAVE THE SUBSTANTIVE THEME OF THE SECRETARY'S CONVERSATIONS PARALLEL THE CONVERSATIONS WITH THE BRAZILIANS SO THERE COULD BE NO OPPORTUNITY FOR ARGENTINE JINGOISTS TO CLAIM THE U.S. HAD SINGLED OUT BRAZIL FOR SERIOUS DISCUSSIONS AND HAD RELEGATED ARGENTINA TO THE REALM OF THE PERFUNCTORY.

3. MCNEIL ASSURED THEM THAT WE RECOGNIZED THE IMPORTANCE OF ARGENTINA AND NOTED THE IMPORTANT ROLE THAT ARGENTINA PLAYED IN NORTH-SOUTH FORUMS AND ON OTHER GLOBAL ISSUES. SECRETARY NATURALLY INTENDED TO HAVE SERIOUS TALKS ON A WIDE RANGE OF ISSUES WITH BOTH THE ARGENTINE FOREIGN MINISTER AND PRESIDENT VIDELA.

4. THE SUBJECT TURNED TO HUMAN RIGHTS. MCNEIL POINTED OUT THAT THE VERY FACT OF THE SECRETARY'S VISIT DEMONSTRATED OUR BELIEF THAT VIDELA WAS ATTEMPTING TO MOVE THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION TOWARD MORE NORMAL PRACTICES. IF THAT WERE NOT SO, IT WOULD HAVE BEEN DIFFICULT TO ARRANGE A VISIT. AJA ESPIL THEN HINTED, NONE TOO SUBTLY, THAT THERE MIGHT BE A TRADEOFF BETWEEN HUMAN RIGHTS AND NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION. MCNEIL NOTED THE PERMANENT CHARACTER OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS POLICY. WE ALSO GAVE PRIORITY TO NON-PROLIFERATION, BUT THEY SHOULD NOT BE SEEN AS TRADEOFFS. HE EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT ARGENTINA WOULD COME TO SEE THAT THE U.S. APPROACH TO NON-PROLIFERATION WAS ONE THAT WAS ALSO IN ARGENTINA'S INTEREST. HE CITED OUR EFFORTS IN SALT AND OTHER FIELDS AS EVIDENCE THAT WE WERE INTERESTED IN LOWERING ARMS STOCKS AS WELL AS PREVENTING THE PROLIFERATION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS TO NEW STATES.

5. AJA ESPIL THEN SAID THAT IT WOULD BE IMPORTANT FOR THE SECRETARY TO TALK ABOUT THE BROAD ISSUES OF DISARMAMENT SINCE THERE IS A MISCONCEPTION IN ARGENTINA ABOUT OUR GENERAL APPROACH AND ONE THAT THE SECRETARY'S VISIT WOULD DO MUCH TO DISPEL. AT THE SUBSTANTIVE LEVEL, IT WAS IMPORTANT THAT THE SECRETARY'S VISIT BE USED AS AN OPPORTUNITY TO GET ACROSS THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION'S APPROACH TO FOREIGN POLICY IN GENERAL, WHICH WAS ONLY IMPERFECTLY UNDERSTOOD IN IMPORTANT CIRCLES.

6. ON THE DETAILS OF THE VISIT, AJA ESPIL ALSO RECOMMENDED THAT WE CONSIDER THE IDEA OF HAVING THE SECRETARY PRESIDE OVER AN OPENING CEREMONY FOR THE NEW EMBASSY. HE ALSO RECOMMENDED THE SECRETARY STAY AT THE EMBASSY RESIDENCE THOUGH THE SHERATON WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE. WE OF COURSE WANT YOUR VIEWS ON SUCH MATTERS. VANCE

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Has this been
answ. word?

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